REMARKS

Consideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

In this preliminary amendment, claims 1-6 are pending and claims 5-6 are amended to eliminate multiple dependent claims to confirm with the U.S. patent practice. No new matter has been introduced.

No fee is believed to be due for this amendment. Should any additional fee be required, please charge the same to deposit account number 50-2518 and notify the Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 20, 2004

Fei-Fei Chao, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 43,538)

Fir- Fir Chao

Bingham McCutchen LLP

Three Embarcadero Center, Suite 1800 San Francisco, California 94111-4067

Tel.: (202) 778-3179 Fax: (202)-778-6155